

Message Text

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TAGS: EGEN, EEC, UK, PINT, PFOR

SUBJECT: WHITE PAPER ON RENEGOTIATION PRESENTED TO
PARLIAMENT

REF: LONDON 4235, LONDON 4004

1. PRIME MINISTER WILSON PRESENTED THE GOVERNMENT'S 40-
PAGE WHITE PAPER ON THE RESULTS OF RENEGOTIATION OF
BRITAIN'S MEMBERSHIP IN EC TO PARLIAMENT ON MARCH 27.
PAPER REFLECTS GOVERNMENT'S TOTAL COMMITMENT TO CONTINUED
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MEMBERSHIP AND WARNS OF SERIOUS ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL

CONSEQUENCES SHOULD ELECTORATE VOTE FOR WITHDRAWAL IN JUNE 5 REFERENDUM. ANTI-MARKETEERS DISAPPOINTED OVER CONTENTS AND TIMING OF PUBLICATION.

2. WHITE PAPER STATES THAT ISSUE OF COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP IS OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE FOR BRITAIN'S PLACE AND ROLE IN THE WORLD. GOVERNMENT ARGUES THAT ON ALL MAJOR ISSUES LIKELY TO DOMINATE REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN -- SOVEREIGNTY, FOOD PRICES, TRADE POLICY, REGIONAL SUPPORT AND INDUSTRIAL POLICY -- BRITAIN IS BETTER OFF INSIDE THE COMMUNITY. EMPHASIS PLACED ON COMMUNITY AS FLEXIBLE ORGANIZATION WILLING TO ADAPT TO CHANGING WORLD AND DIFFERING NEEDS OF MEMBER STATES. WARNINGS MADE ON TARIFF BARRIERS WHICH WOULD EMERGE AFTER WITHDRAWAL AND EFFECTS THEY WOULD HAVE ON EXPORTS AND EMPLOYMENT. DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATION OF NEW TRADING ARRANGEMENTS WITH EC ALSO HIGHLIGHTED. LIMITS TO AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE GOVERNMENT COULD GIVE TO BRITISH INDUSTRY WOULD BE A LIKELY CONDITION IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS TO CREATE AN ACCEPTABLE FREE TRADE AREA.

3. INCLUSION IN PAPER OF THE EXTRA CHAPTER ENTITLED "WIDER CONSIDERATIONS" WHICH IS STRONG INDICTMENT OF ANTI-MARKETEERS' CASE ANGERED THEM. PRESS REPORTS THAT PUBLICATION OF PAPER ON MARCH 27 WHEN THERE WERE NO NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS THE NEXT DAY FURTHER RAISED THEIR IRE.

4. AMONG THE WIDER CONSIDERATIONS WAS THE STABILITY OF WESTERN EUROPE. PAPER STATES THAT COHESIVE EUROPE IS AN ESSENTIAL PILLAR OF THE ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP AND A MORE COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP HAS NOW BEEN ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE NINE AND THE US.

5. COPIES OF WHITE PAPER FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM.

RICHARDSON

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